

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Personalities and Organization of China  
 Export Corporation and DEAG

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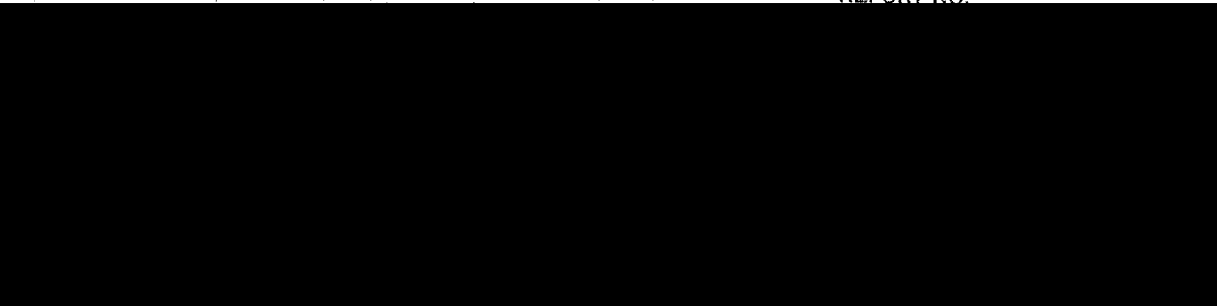
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China Export Corporation, Leipzigerstrasse, Berlin NW

1. Ernst Erben, Director of the China Export Corporation, is a Sudeten German of Czech descent on his mother's side. He has been a member of the SED since its inception and has been prominent in Soviet Zone trade operations. Together with the SED member Gustav Gruger, he founded the Deutsche Aussenhandels-gesellschaft, Berlin, in 1947/48. In 1949, this concern was transformed into the DEAG (Deutsche Einfuhr- und Ausfuhr-gesellschaft), Berlin. In 1949, Erben was attached to the Eastern Zone Mission in Warsaw as commercial attaché. Late in 1949, he was recalled and appointed chief of the China Export Corporation.
2. As director of the DEAG, Erben conducted the smuggling of sugar and coffee to West Berlin and Western Germany. He has undertaken several trips to the Rhinish-Westphalian industrial areas on behalf of the China Export Corporation.

DEAG (Deutsche Ein-und Ausfuhr-gesellschaft m.b.H.)

3. This SED sponsored concern was formed from the Deutsche Aussenhandels-gesellschaft m.b.H. by Party members Ernst Erben and Gustav Gruger. Originally, the Deutsche Aussenhandels-gesellschaft was engaged exclusively in illegal transactions in the West Sectors of Berlin and in the Eastern Zones of Germany. When the Deutsche Aussenhandels-gesellschaft was transformed into the DEAG, it moved to new quarters in the Friedrichstrasse. The original number of fifteen employees was increased to 220. The DEAG offices are in the former Bata Haus belonging to Czechoslovakia. Super, a similar concern headed by Bata (Znu), is installed in the same building. DEAG is composed of the following departments:
  - a. Department A (the so-called illegal (schwarz) department)  
 Directors: Gruger and Richter  
 Export for Western Germany: Ernst Hochler

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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- b. Commercial Department  
Director: Rodin  
Expert: Schreiber
  - c. Traffic Department  
Director: Wilk (successor of Herrmann)
5. Department A works with a group of shady operators from West Berlin and Western Germany who conduct business for Department A for large commissions, and occasionally operate for their own account. The following are some of the individuals who transact business for Department A.
- a. Nicolaus Iconomou, a Greek living at Eisenzahnstrasse 64, Berlin-Wilmersdorf. In the two years of his activity, Iconomou has transacted large deals in sugar and ball bearings and has become well-to-do. He is reported to be worth some two to three million DM West.
  - b. Hopp, a Bavarian merchant who lives permanently in the Hotel Intourist Adria, Friedrichstrasse 134, where he maintains his office.
  - c. Max Rauch, a West Berliner, Kurfürstendamm 48/49, who is endeavoring to procure 2,000 tons of calcined aluminum oxide in Western Germany.
  - d. Issy Wigoda from Erfurt, who frequently visits Western Germany for Department A on buying and selling trips.
  - e. Bergh (fnu), an American citizen, procures raw materials for DEAG for New York, via Oslo and Stettin. At present he is living at the Hotel Intourist Adria as a guest of the SLD.
6. The Commercial Department conducts legitimate export business on the basis of existing trade agreements concluded by the DDR with eastern states. However, the export items are, in part, procured by Department A.
7. The Traffic Department conducts the illegal shipping operations between the West and the Eastern Zone. Its director, Wilk, is very capable and is always able to find shippers in the East and the West who are willing to handle his goods.

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